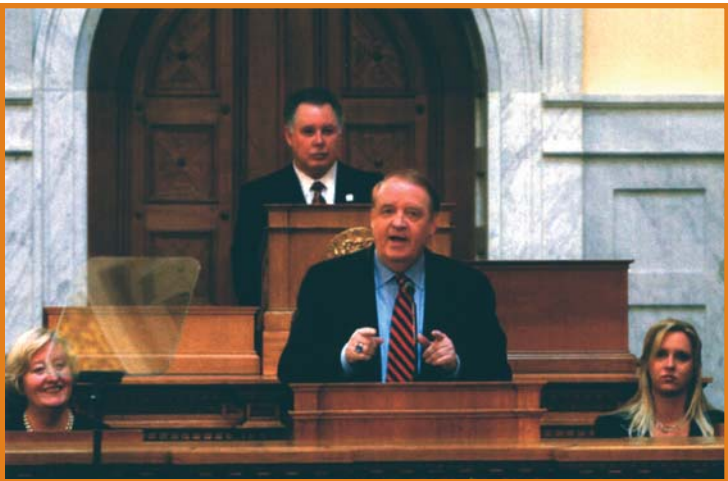


Acting Governor Codey unveils \$27.4 Billion Budget Proposal for FY 2006

Acting Governor Richard J. Codey’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2006 (FY 06) fully funds the second year of the child welfare reform plan, provides \$40 million in new initiatives across all state agencies for people with mental illness, and allows for growth and increased costs in the Medicaid and General Assistance programs.

“In this tight economic year, this is a very compassionate budget,” said Commissioner James Davy. “The state is facing a huge revenue shortfall this year and I am grateful that Governor Codey kept his commitment to the Child Welfare Reform Plan, improving services to people with mental illness, and maintaining vital safety-net programs”

The proposed FY 06 budget, which spans July 2005 through June 2006, would increase state revenue to the Department of Human Services from \$4.8 billion to \$5.2 billion.



Acting Governor Codey delivering NJ FY 2006 Annual Budget Address.

The newly-created Office of Children’s Services (OCS), which is overseeing all aspects of the Child Welfare Reform, would receive an additional \$93 million to carry out the plan and improve other services for children. About \$55 million of that is funding for the court-mandated reform plan, which will make sweeping improvements to the system over the next four and a half years by adding staff, improving training, increasing the numbers and supports for resource families, improving case practice and much more. That

money will be added to the \$125 million increase allocated in FY 05 for a total increase of \$180 million. The Division of Children’s Behavioral Health Services, which is a part of OCS, would receive an additional \$24.4 million to develop care management organizations, family support organizations, residential programs and in-home services for children and teenagers with mental illness. The Division of Youth and Family Services, under OCS as well, would receive an additional \$14 million. The proposed

budget would also provide \$29 million to fund case-load growth in the General Assistance program, which serves about 34,000 childless adults, and \$183 million for increased expenses and usage of the Medicaid program, which provides health insurance for more than 714,000 low-income, aged blind and disabled people.

Services for people with mental illness was also a top priority in the Governor’s proposed budget. The Governor is seeking an additional \$40 million in the FY 06 budget to make broad improvements to the state’s mental health services system. Some of those initiatives would be carried out by DHS, while others would be housed in other state departments of Health and Senior Services, Community Affairs, and Military and Veterans Affairs.

About \$26 million of the \$40 million would go to DHS community-based mental health programs.

- ❖ Screening centers would be expanded by 50 percent;
- ❖ Self-help centers would receive an additional \$2 million;
- ❖ Case management, counseling, medication management and employment training would be provided to some 500 people with mental illness in supportive housing programs; and
- ❖ Intensive case management and Program for Assertive Case Management Treatment (PACT) services would be expanded for mentally ill prisoners preparing to re-enter society.

New Safe Child Fund: Promoting Neighborhood Collaboratives and Connecting Abuse Prevention Services

Commissioner James M. Davy recently announced corporate contributions of \$700,000 to help reform the state’s child welfare system and launched a new fund and consortium to promote community collaboratives and support programs that prevent child abuse and neglect.

Commissioner Davy announced the formation of the “Safe Child Fund” and the “Safe Child Consortium of New Jersey” and thanked executives from New Jersey Resources (NJR) and the Prudential Foundation for their “generous” contributions.

“Other reform efforts in New Jersey have failed, but the thing that distinguishes this one is that everyone has a chance to ‘buy in’ to increase resources for our neediest citizens and children instead of relying only on government and tax dollars,” Commissioner Davy said. “Individuals, providers and businesses can buy-in by promoting the neighborhood collaboratives aimed at linking and enhancing prevention services.”

The reform plan calls for the development of a consortium of at least five corporate and foundation leaders to identify and promote steps businesses and foundations can take to help the Department of Human

Services prevent child abuse and neglect. Representatives from more than 20 corporations and foundations have joined together as a working group, chaired by New Jersey Resources (NJR) Chairman and CEO Laurence M. Downes.

“We have an opportunity to make a positive and lasting effect on children’s lives through our state’s plan to address this critical issue for us all,” Downes said. “The security and welfare of our children is or should be of primary concern to every New Jersey citizen, and we’re proud to take a leadership role in this vital initiative.”

NJR pledged a total of \$380,000 - \$500,000 to the Safe Child Fund, and

\$120,000 for Leadership Development within the Department.

Commissioner Davy also announced a gift of \$200,000 from the Prudential Foundation to the Safe Child Fund.

The Safe Child Consortium, initiated in September 2004, is a growing group of leaders from the corporate, business, foundation, and labor communities, who, along with individuals, are partnering with DHS and the Office of Children’s Services.

The Safe Child Fund of New Jersey, which will be held and administered by the nonprofit Princeton

Area Community Foundation, will not replace government funds dedicated to child welfare reform implementation. This is an opportunity for “value-added endeavors” for groups and agencies committed to stronger communities, secure families and safe children.

“We are running a marathon here, not a sprint,” Commissioner Davy said. “A lot of hard work is ahead of us and we need many partners for this noble purpose.”

Grantmaking will begin once the Fund’s procedures and criteria for soliciting and reviewing grant applications are established by its Advisory Committee.

See NJ Commerce - page 2



Nancy W. Kieling, President and Executive Director of Princeton Area Community Foundation, joins Commissioner James M. Davy for launch of Safe Child Fund and the Safe Child Consortium of New Jersey.

We’re on the Web:  
[www.state.nj.us/humanservices/index.html](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/index.html)

THE NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

NEWS

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# Letter from the Commissioner

Dear Colleague:

In February, I was very happy to celebrate my first anniversary as Commissioner of the Department of Human Services. Working together, I believe we have achieved much success over the past year here at the Department.

As I look to the future, I am also very optimistic about the Department. My optimism grows stronger every time I travel out to meet DHS staff in offices, institutions and programs across the state, something I have done almost weekly since my first day on the job.

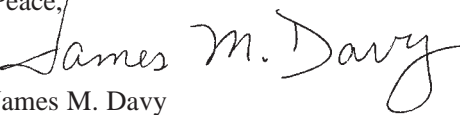
Of course, even though we are making progress in many areas, it isn't always easy. The state is facing one of its tightest budgets in years, and the Governor's proposed budget holds funding for most of our programs even with last year. (A story on Page One of this newsletter describes the Governor's proposed budget in more detail.)

But the Governor did not cut any of our programs, and he clearly recognizes and supports the importance of the work we do here. At the same time, I see people in all corners of this Department who are working both harder and smarter, and the results are evident. Morale is improving, and I am convinced that we all share a clear sense of the Noble Purpose we are striving to achieve.

There are many other successes. We continue to improve our ability to serve New Jersey's most fragile children and their families, enhance our capacity to assist people with disabilities to live as independently as possible, and provide a secure safety net of supports and services for people who are struggling economically.

I hope you take as much pride in your work as I do in the work you do. I hope, too, that you will continue to send me your stories - both good and bad - about your experiences as a DHS employee. I encourage you to send them to me at the Commissioner's Corner on our Intranet. (When you sign onto the DHS Intranet page, just click on the "Commissioner's Corner" logo by my photo at the top, and then click again on my name beside the envelope.)

Finally, I hope you enjoy this issue of the DHS News. And I look forward to hearing from you.

Peace,  
  
James M. Davy  
Commissioner



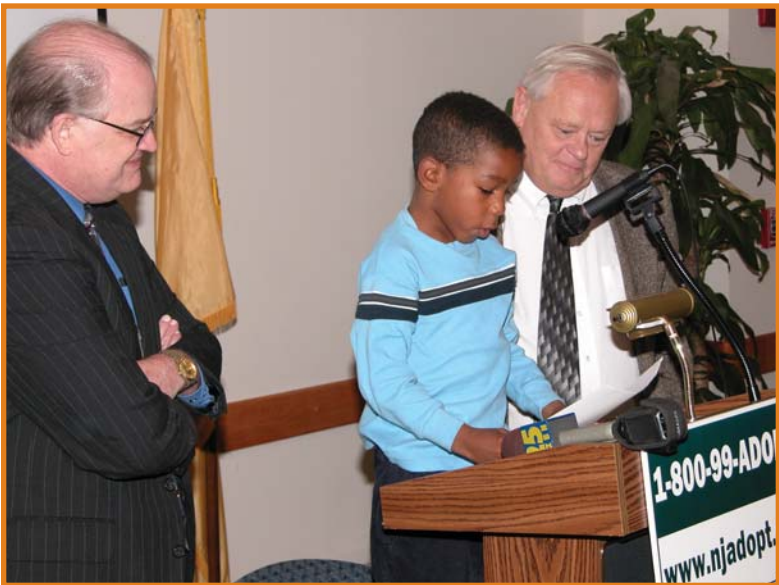
## New Jersey Celebrates Adoption Awareness Month

New Jersey kicked off "Adoption Awareness Month" by honoring individuals for their "What Adoption Means to Me" essays.

As part of the November kickoff, three children and one adoptive parent were recognized for their winning essays. Each autumn, the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) sponsors the contest for adoptees and adoptive families.

The winners include:

- ❖ **ROBERT WILSON** - a seven-year-old adoptee from Bridgeton, Cumberland County.
- ❖ **ALEXANDRIA MARTINI** - a 12-year-old from South Amboy, Middlesex County who wrote about her adopted sister who is now three years old.
- ❖ **JERMAINE ROBINSON** - a 15-year-old adoptee from Kendall Park, Middlesex County who was adopted seven years ago by a single father.
- ❖ **HOPE DONALD** - a Special Home Service Provider foster parent (cares for medically fragile children) from Plainfield, Union County who along with her husband Roland adopted their four-year-old daughter two years ago.



Seven-year-old winner of DYFS contest, Robert Wilson (center), reads his essay joined by DHS Commissioner James M. Davy and DYFS Assistant Commissioner Edward Cotton.

To learn more about adopting a child, visit the DYFS adoption web site <http://www.njadopt.org> or call toll free 1-800-99-ADOPT.

As a result of the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, states have seen a significant

increase in adoptions over the past several years. The law stresses the safety, permanency and well being of children by reducing their time in foster care and creating more opportunities for adoption. Specifically, if a child has spent 15 out of the last 22 months in fos-

ter care, the state may proceed through the courts with terminating a parent's rights thus clearing the way for the child's adoption.

In a related matter, the Department of Human Services recently announced DYFS finalized a record 1,383 adoptions last year - a 36-percent increase over 2003.

## New Approach for Students with Developmental Disabilities

**DHS Commissioner Davy** recently attended a round-table discussion with families to announce a new program for graduating students who receive services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities. These students are no longer eligible for educational funding through their local school districts.

"We want to be more proactive in helping students and their families' transition from school to adult life," Acting Governor Richard J. Codey later commented. "Like any young adult, we need to give them the tools they need to succeed."

Individuals under 21 years of age who are eligible for services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) attend special education and/or residential programs funded by their local school districts. Each year approximately, 600 students graduate or "age out" from those programs and may seek alternate DDD-funded programming and support services.

During January, DDD hosted regional information sessions for students who are graduating this June and their families. Follow-up workshops on financial assistance, work activities and other service options will also be available. DHS allocated \$5M in the FY 05 budget for support services for people with developmental disabilities who graduated during 2004.

"Last year marked the first year that we earmarked funds to support this critical transition," said Commissioner Davy. "It's important that people with disabilities plan effectively for life after graduation just like you or I would."

## NJ Commerce Secretary Joins Safe Child Consortium

**COMMISSIONER JAMES M. DAVY** recently welcomed Commerce Secretary Virginia Bauer as a new member of the Safe Child Consortium.

Commissioner Davy thanked Secretary Bauer for agreeing to serve on the consortium, which was created to promote the work of the Division of



Prevention and Community Partnerships in the Office of Children Services and support programs that prevent child abuse and neglect.

"I am thrilled that Secretary Bauer will lend her time and expertise to this historic effort," Commissioner Davy said. "In addition to her current leadership

in working to bring productive and responsible businesses to New Jersey, she has an extensive background in philanthropic fundraising. I can't thank her enough for her commitment."

Secretary Bauer said she appreciates the Commissioner's invitation to join the consortium and looks forward to helping it evolve.

"The fact that this panel has raised \$700,000 in its first two months shows the commitment of its members, and I am pleased to be one of them," Secretary Bauer said. "I also think the donations show that there are generous corporate leaders, like Larry Downes, who are willing to step up to the plate to help our children."



# New Jersey Launches New Shaken Baby Campaign

DHS Commissioner James M. Davy has announced a new shaken baby public awareness campaign as part of the state’s efforts to expand its child abuse prevention efforts. The new shaken baby campaign includes brochures and posters available in English and Spanish. And, through a partnership with the New Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the New Jersey Hospital Association, the information will be made available at local pediatric practices and hospital nurseries.

“Parents are often stressed out by the new responsibilities a baby can bring,” said Commissioner Davy. “Through this effort, we hope to prevent the tragedy of shaken baby syndrome and provide new parents with the support they need.”

Shaken baby syndrome is a serious brain injury that can be caused by a frustrated caregiver who shakes an infant in an effort to stop the baby from crying. Shaking a baby can cause bleeding inside the brain and lead to possible permanent injuries or death. Since 1999, there have been 15 deaths in New Jersey as result of shaken baby syndrome. In 70 percent of the shaken baby deaths, either the child’s mother or father was responsible for the incident.

Along with the launch, NJ Assemblyman Louis Greenwald announced he will introduce legislation requiring that information on shaken baby syndrome be provided to new parents before they leave the hospital. Under the current law, medical facilities are only required to supply new parents

with general information on child abuse and neglect.

“There are many things that are difficult for government officials to correct or impact. But this is an issue that, through a partnership of the state and medical facilities, can be remedied,” said

Assemblyman Greenwald. “We have the tools necessary to inform parents of the dangers of shaken baby syndrome; therefore we should and must use our combined resources to take this on.”

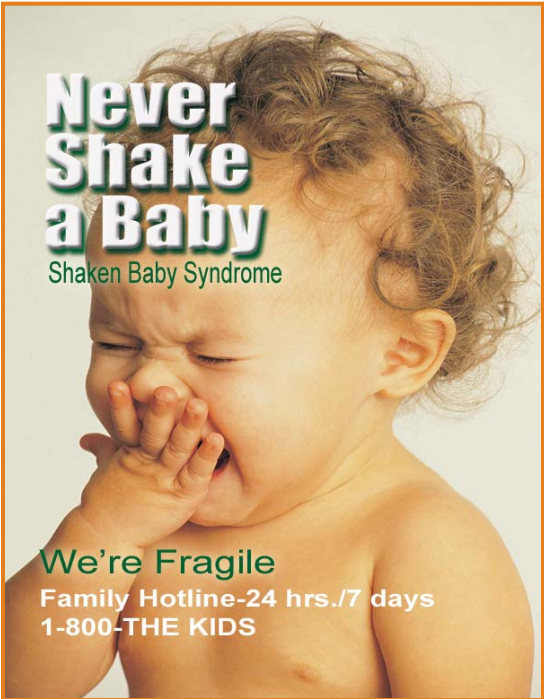
Dr. Bipin Patel, Chairman of Pediatrics at Saint Peter’s and President, American Academy of Pediatrics said, “Today is an important step for all of us who care for children as we work together to ensure no baby has to die or suffer brain damage from being shaken.”

A second part of the shaken baby public awareness campaign involves Dr. Steve Kairys, head of the pediatric department at Jersey Shore University Medical Center. Dr.

Kairys is leading an effort on behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics at six pediatric practices in New Jersey through a grant from the Doris Duke Practicing Safety project.

The project includes seven modules for pediatricians on preventing child abuse. It provides tools for pediatricians on how they can work with parents to help them raise healthy children. One of the modules focuses specifically on shaken baby syndrome and what parents can do when their baby cries.

Parents who feel they cannot cope and need help caring for their baby can call the Family Hotline 24 hours a day, seven days a week at [1-800-THE-KIDS](tel:1-800-THE-KIDS).



# Sharing the Love With Our Children

The Department of Human Services (DHS) recently partnered with New Jersey’s faith community to recruit resource/foster families as part of the “Sharing the Love with our Children” weekend held February 11-13.

“When we talk about our most vulnerable children, we’re not talking about DYFS (Division of Youth and Family Services) children,” said Commissioner James M. Davy.

“We’re talking about our children and how we as a community need to do better.”



Unlike past efforts to reform the state’s child welfare system, DHS is focusing on the needs of individual communities. Through its new Division of Prevention and Community Partnerships (DPCP), DHS is collaborating with local stakeholders such as community agencies and houses of worship to identify local service needs.

Approximately 500 houses of worship throughout New Jersey took part in the “Sharing the Love with our Children” weekend. As part of the recruitment weekend, houses of worship tailored events or featured guest speakers on how their local community can become resource/foster families and provide safe and loving homes to New Jersey’s most vulnerable children.

“One of the strengths of every community is a house of worship,” said Commissioner Davy. “By partnering with the faith community, we truly can make a difference in a child’s life.”

# CBVI’s Toy Drive for DYFS Children an Overwhelming Success!

CBVI’s CENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE in Toms River continued its tradition of posting tags with the gender and age of, and gift desired by children from their DYFS neighbors at 1510 Hooper Avenue, then buying Christmas gifts to match the 20 names. This year CBVI’s main office in Newark, joined in by gathering gifts for DYFS children in their area, spear-headed by Lorri Ghio, Vito DeSantis’ Secretarial Assistant, who came up with the idea for a “Giving Tree.”

Denise Hutchinson of the DYFS Metro Regional Support Unit provided name lists, and then staffers made ornaments with the first name, age and gender of each child and placed them on a Christmas tree in the reception area of CBVI’s 6th floor Executive Suite (which is shared by the DYFS Metro Unit). Starting with 56 ornament tags, employees picked an ornament, then purchased and wrapped a gift, using the ornament as a gift tag.

Throughout the office comments like, “I hope Marcus likes Lego’s,” and “Look at the Barbie I bought my Nicole,” were commonplace.



56 ornament tags on “Giving Tree” lead to multiple Christmas gifts for children.

By Friday, December 17th, CBVI presented 87 beautifully wrapped gifts to the DYFS Metro Unit, and during Christmas week, CBVI Santa’s helpers quietly placed even more gifts under the tree. “The Giving Tree brought the glow of the holiday spirit to the office,” said CBVI’s Pam Gaston. While it was not possible to meet the children that received the gifts, on their behalf, both Pam and executive director Vito DeSantis thank the CBVI staff for their kindness and generosity.

Just before Christmas, a delegation went to Lorri and said, “We need more names!” By day’s end, a new set of ornaments went up on the tree. Many brought multiple gifts. Carmen Brown from the Fiscal Unit and Janice Ottley-Linder of Payroll, were seen at the Giving Tree almost daily. The two women brought gifts for more than 20 children.

# Pre-teens with Psychiatric Needs No Longer Institutionalized

New program to serve children from Arthur Brisbane Child Treatment Center

DHS has announced a new treatment program operated by Youth Consultation Service (YCS) for pre-teens with severe psychiatric needs. This move comes as the state begins the gradual closing of the Arthur Brisbane Child Treatment Center.

“We have taken an important first step in closing Brisbane,” said Commissioner James M. Davy. “More importantly, it is a momentous first step to providing alternative placements and better treatment options for our children.”

Since 1947, Brisbane has provided intensive psychiatric treatment to children with severe emotional, behavioral and/or mental health needs. As part of the state’s Child Welfare Reform Plan, Brisbane is to close by December 2005. A number of enforceable milestones are also in the Child Welfare Reform Plan, including the requirement that the state provide an alternative to Brisbane for children ages 11-13.

The first of its kind in New Jersey, the new residential intensive treatment services program is located at YCS’ Holley Child Care and Development Center. The seven-bed program provides 24-7 care and supervision, medication management and an individualized treatment program designed specifically for each child.

“Best practices indicate children thrive better when they are not placed in large institutional facilities like Brisbane,” explained Office of Children’s Services Deputy Commissioner Kathi Way.



# \$5M Grants to Expand Prevention Services for Students

DHS has announced \$5 million in grants to expand school-based prevention and support services proven to help students stay in school and avoid violence, substance abuse and pregnancy.

The School-Based Youth Services Program (SBYSP), which provides a variety of counseling and social services at 44 sites in or near secondary schools, is being expanded to 11 more high schools and eight middle schools.

“We need to help more of our youth think twice before engaging in risky behavior that can rob them of their future,” said Commissioner Davy during a press conference held at Trenton High School. “I am pleased to be expanding this successful program and intervening earlier because the program casts such a wide safety net that catches so many teens before they fall through the cracks - to drug use, to teen pregnancy, to sexually transmitted diseases,” Commissioner Davy stated.

The SBYSP at Trenton High has been credited with helping many students stay in school, resolve family problems and resist the temptations of inner-city youth. “The program gave me hope. I wouldn’t have been able to stay in school,” one young mother told the crowd, praising the program’s daycare service which allowed her to attend classes.

Grants of \$250,000 will help support each of the new high school programs in 2005, while \$170,000 will go to each of the new middle school programs. Each recipient also receives \$50,000 in one-time start-up funds.

The agencies and school districts that run the program must work collaboratively with the school district and a wide array of social services in the community.

SBYSP sites address the core services of health, mental health and vocational assistance. They also provide crisis counseling, after-school activities and other supportive services that can be tailored to meet individual student’s needs. The services are delivered in ways

that don’t make the students feel threatened or stigmatized.

“This is really one-stop shopping that breaks down barriers and bureaucratic roadblocks that often prevent adolescents from getting services,” Commissioner Davy said.

“Many of the youth served through the School-Based Youth Services Program would be lost. The program provides them with positive role models, cultural and educational exposure that fosters leadership and a desire to give back to the community,” said Jeanette Page-Hawkins, Director of the Division of Family Development at DHS, which administers the School-Based program.

Expansion of the SBYSP is part of an historic and sweeping effort to reform the state’s child welfare system.

SBYSP - New Sites

High School

Millville High School \*  
Eastside HS, Paterson\*  
Jefferson HS, Elizabeth\*  
Hoboken HS\*  
Keansburg HS\*  
Salem City HS\*  
Woodrow Wilson HS, Camden \*  
Passaic Vocational Technical HS  
Columbia HS, South Orange.  
Manchester Regional HS, Haledon  
Teaneck HS  
\* Abbott District

Middle School

Orange Middle School\*  
Warren Hills Middle School  
Maxson Jr. High School, Plainfield\*  
Jose Marti Middle School, Union City\*  
Cleary Middle School.  
Pinelands Middle School  
Phillipsburg Middle School\*  
Veteran’s Memorial Middle School, Brick

# State Agencies Provide Repairs for Group Homes

The Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DLWD) have recently initiated a \$5.6



million collaboration to complete nearly 900 repair projects in more than 700 community residences serving people with developmental disabilities.

“I am very happy to be part of a collaboration between three departments within state government who are working for one

common goal to better serve some of our most vulnerable citizens,” said Commissioner Davy. “We appreciate the support that we are getting from Community Affairs and Labor.”

DHS identified \$3.6 million for much-needed major and minor repair work. The work involves a variety of items including painting, carpentry, sidewalks and porch repair, heating and air conditioning replacement. DCA is providing \$2 million through the Balanced Housing Neighborhood Preservation Program as part of its commitment to providing quality and affordable housing for everyone.

NJ Youth Corps members within the Department of Labor are completing minor repair projects, including painting, landscaping and carpentry. Participants receive a stipend while gaining job training.

“This new partnership is just one of the many innovative investments we are making across the state to build vibrant communities where people want to raise families and build businesses,” said DCA Commissioner Bass Levin. “Together, we are providing quality, affordable housing to those who need it most while building resources for the community’s future.”

“This partnership between Human Services, Community Affairs and Labor is truly a win-win for both the developmental disabilities community and the New Jersey Youth Corps,” said Thomas Carver, DLWD Acting Commissioner.

# Substance Abuse Program Opens Residential Home for Moms and Children

Commissioner James M. Davy recently announced the opening of a residential substance abuse program that allows mothers in treatment to have their children live with them.

Newark Renaissance House will be the home of 15 women and up to 30 of their children. Similar programs existing at Seabrook House in Cumberland County and Sunrise House in Sussex County are designed to meet the needs identified in the Child Welfare Reform Plan for substance abuse treatment of DYFS moms.

“We have to stop tragedies caused by substance abuse. It’s one of the most pressing and destructive problems facing families and children,” said Commissioner Davy. “These are mothers, sisters, daughters, friends, neighbors - and their children are our future. We are committed to doing everything we can to break the vicious cycle of substance abuse and protect our children,” added Division of Addiction Services head Carolann Kane Cavaiola.

The Commissioner noted that more than 80 percent of DYFS cases involve substance abuse.



Newark Renaissance House

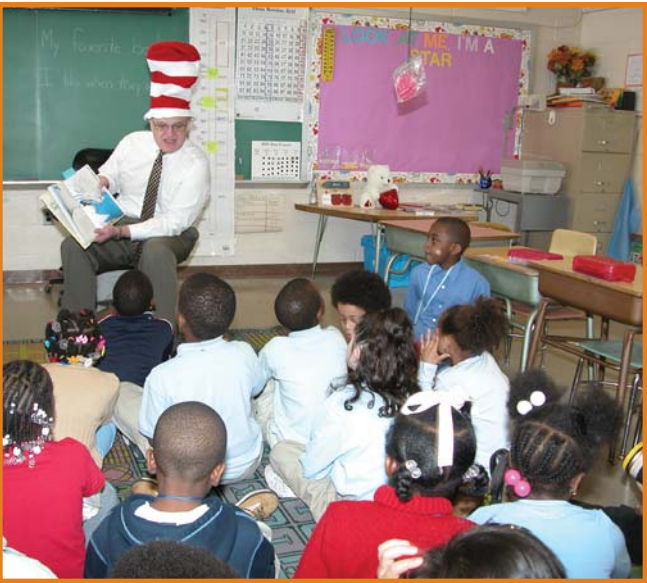
Under the new Child Welfare Reform Plan, DHS plans to spend \$58 million over the next five years to expand substance abuse treatment services.

The overall treatment goal will be each client’s recovery and permanent reunification with her children. Barriers to access to treatment will be removed by providing for the child and facilitating services on site to the children that come to the program with their mothers.

Newark Renaissance House (NRH) was established in 1975 to provide drug/alcohol treatment to adults. NRH began providing treatment services to teens in 1980. In 1987, NRH started to provide

substance abuse treatment services to adolescents and has branched out into an intensive outpatient program for women and children in a separate location on the Newark campus. It is designed to meet the specialized treatment needs of women substance abusers and the developmental needs of infants and children affected by maternal substance abuse.

# Read Across America



For Dr. Seuss’ birthday celebration - “Read Across America,” Commissioner Davy read “Horton Hears a Who” to first-graders at McGinley School in Willingboro, NJ.



# Human Services and New Jersey Lottery Recognize New Lisbon Developmental Center Residents

Department of Human Services (DHS) Commissioner James M. Davy and NJ Lottery Acting Executive Director, William T. Jourdain visited New Lisbon Developmental Center on February 22 to recognize Knoll Manor residents Donatier Smith and Robert Caywood for their participation in Lottery's "More" commercial.

Donatier and Robert participated in a video shoot at New Jersey Network (NJN) studios in Trenton during this past November. The commercial, currently airing, touts Lottery's support for state agencies and public facilities like New Lisbon Developmental Center. It also highlights the many

beneficiaries of this contribution, which include people with developmental disabilities.



Pictured standing L-R: Jefferey Schroeder, CEO New Lisbon DC; Terri Wilson, DHS, Deputy Commissioner; James Davy, DHS Commissioner; Carol Grant, Acting Director, DDD, William T. Jourdain, NJ Lottery, Acting Executive Director. Seated front L-R: New Lisbon residents, Robert Caywood and Donatier Smith.

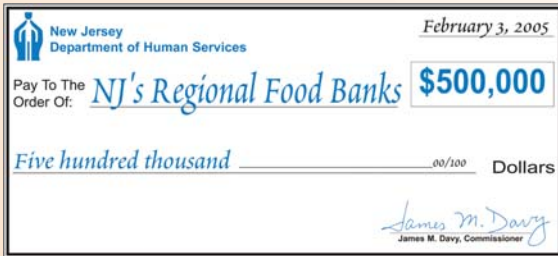
our developmental centers and the state psychiatric hospitals benefit from their very generous contribution," added DDD Director Carol Grant.

FY'04 Lottery sales translated into more than \$793 million in funding for DHS, community colleges, Governor's School, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Department of Agriculture School Nutrition programs, and the Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf. DHS received more than \$281 million for the operation of developmental centers and state psychiatric hospitals.

"We are very grateful for Lottery's support," said Commissioner Davy.

"People living in both

## DHS Gives Six Regional Food Banks \$500,000 for Emergency Food Funding



Commissioner James M. Davy presented the state's food banks with \$500,000 in additional funding to accommodate residents' emergency needs during a visit to the Community FoodBank of New Jersey in Hillside.

The funding comes from the New Jersey Hunger Prevention Advisory Committee's recommendation for 2004. The committee has appropriated emergency funding since November 2000 when the state enacted the New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program Act. The legislation put aside \$5 million in unused federal welfare funds to educate and feed families as they become self-sufficient.

"It's wonderful that the Department of Human Services is able to augment the food banks as they feed New Jersey's hungry," said Commissioner Davy. "But I'm not sure how we are going to provide emergency assistance once the \$5 million funding runs out. I'm looking to the advisory committee to help us develop long-term funding sources so our residents can be assured of a meal."

The New Jersey Federation of Food Banks includes six distribution centers serving the entire state through a network of public and private venues including food pantries, shelters, seniors' programs and child care centers.

## New Medical Director on Board at Office of Children's Services

Dr. Joseph Jacobs, who joined the Office of Children's Services (OCS), as medical director in the fall, has been working to develop effective partnerships with medical professionals and is drafting a comprehensive plan to coordinate medical care for children under state supervision.

Dr. Jacobs' hiring was important because one of the goals of the state's Child Welfare Reform Plan is to ensure that DYFS-involved children receive high-quality routine and emergency medical care. Dr. Jacobs will oversee development of policies for providing such care and the creation of data systems to better track children's medical histories.

"His expertise as a pediatrician and a public health expert will help us coordinate services and better collaborate with the medical community to ensure that the children in our care get the medical attention they need," said OCS Deputy Commissioner Kathi Way.

The medical director position was seen as a source of needed leadership to address issues raised by recent high-profile cases in which children either were not receiving medical care or physicians failed to recognize and report signs of abuse or neglect.

Before coming to OCS, Dr. Jacobs held various public positions, including medical director for the Vermont Office of Health Access and Department of Corrections and Director of the Office of Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md.



## Point-in-Time Survey Takes Snapshot of Homeless in New Jersey Results drive federal bonus funding; NJ receives \$8 million based upon 2004 Survey

On a freezing January day in Paterson, Commissioner James M. Davy joined volunteers in Passaic County who counted the homeless during a 24-hour period. Using a standardized form, Commissioner Davy talked to people at the Creech Development Center's food pantry to learn more about the state's homeless situation.

"Homelessness is a growing problem for our vulnerable population. Most of these people deal with mental illnesses or developmental disabilities, have physical disabilities or are battling addictions," Commissioner Davy said. "The sad reality is that about 20,000 people in our state do not have permanent roofs over their heads. We need to find appropriate, affordable housing for them."

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires a yearly point-in-time survey of the homeless in order to be eligible for funding. Based on the 2004 survey, New Jersey received about \$35 million in federal funding for housing opportunities and support services for the homeless this year -- an \$8 million increase over 2003 funding.



## 2-1-1 Hotline Unveiled to Serve New Jersey 24/7

Commissioner James M. Davy pressed three simple buttons this past February - 2-1-1 - and launched the statewide hotline for social services information.

"2-1-1 is a single, simple, statewide phone number that all residents can use to get information on any number of social services, governmental services and community resources," Commissioner Davy said. "2-1-1 can provide the 'where-to-go' and 'how-to-apply' for such programs as Food Stamps, NJ FamilyCare, substance abuse assistance and homeless shelters," he said.

This free, confidential service is available via landlines and cell phones throughout the state 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Information is also available via TTY/TTD services and in various languages including Spanish.

Joined by NJ Assemblyman Louis D. Greenwald and Tom Toronto, Co-Chair, NJ 2-1-1 Partnership and President and CEO, Bergen County's United Way, the

Commissioner called the info line and told the Call Specialist he needed tax help for a client. The Call Specialist provided detailed, local information and even requested additional information about the client so she could offer more help.

"Too many people use 9-1-1, the emergency number we're all familiar with, to ask non-urgent questions. 2-1-1 will help take that burden away AND offer local and precise answers to those questions," Commissioner Davy said.

The program, including the United Way's 10 Regional Call Centers, is funded through the Department of Human Services, the state's United Way organizations and corporate donations from Verizon.

For more information on 2-1-1 in New Jersey, visit [www.nj211.org](http://www.nj211.org).





# News in Brief . . . . .

## DHS Lauds Noble Purpose of Martin Luther King

The New Jersey Department of Human Services’ Central Office (DHS) recently hosted a program commemorating the life and accomplishments of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The keynote speaker, Reverend David W. Jones, pastor of the Lord of Life Lutheran Church of Tabernacle, New Jersey addressed “The Noble Purpose of Dr. King” by tying in Commissioner’s Davy’s theme of the “noble purpose” of the employees, agencies, and volunteers across the state who serve the families and children of New Jersey.



## New Special Deputy Commissioner: James E. McGuire, Esq.

James E. McGuire has been appointed Special Deputy Commissioner for Legal, Policy and Legislative Affairs at DHS. McGuire joins the department after having been in private practice with the Princeton law firm of Reed Smith, where he worked extensively on Administrative Law, Alternate Dispute Resolution and Public Utility and Environmental Law.

Prior to the private practice, McGuire worked at the former NJ Department of the Public Advocate for 20 years. During his tenure at the Public Advocate, McGuire established and directed a state office to mediate complex multi-party disputes. McGuire eventually was appointed Assistant Deputy Public Advocate, handling an array of utility rate cases.

McGuire replaces Rolando Torres, who recently was appointed Commissioner of the NJ Department of Personnel.

**Mental Health Services Staff Recognized for Redirection II** - The Division of Mental Health Services staff were recognized on December 16th for their participation in Redirection II. This statewide Mental Health Quality of Care Improvement

Initiative, announced in April 2001, called for significant improvements in the mental health system including, discharge-oriented services, admission diversion services and quality-of-care improvements. The plan also called for a new state-of-the-art facility to replace the 128-year-old Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital. Congratulations again to the Mental Health Services staff!

**Foster Children’s Day Fifth Annual Celebration** - DHS Commissioner James M. Davy and Division of Youth and Family Services Assistant Commissioner Edward E. Cotton honored community volunteers and organizations for their work on behalf of New Jersey’s 12,500 foster children as part of Foster Children’s Day in December. Foster Children’s Day was established in 2000 to increase awareness of the needs of New Jersey’s foster children. Children may be placed in foster care when they cannot safely remain in their own home because of abuse or neglect. Currently, 65 percent of foster children are siblings and 50 percent are under the age of five. To learn more about becoming a resource family, call toll free 1-877-NJ-FOSTER or visit [www.njfostercare.org](http://www.njfostercare.org)

**ASL Story Hour Highlights Black History Month** **BRIAN SHOMO**, director of the Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing, was the guest reader for American Sign Language (ASL) Story Hour’s Black History Month commemoration at the Library for the Blind and Handicapped. Youngsters from Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf visit the Library every month for ASL Story Hour.



**Nadia Cayce Appointed to National Expert Oversight Committee** - Nadia Cayce of the Office of Children’s Services was recently appointed to the National Expert Oversight Committee for children’s mental health. The Committee will oversee a study that will examine the elements which need to be in place in order to create financing structures that sup-

port more effective delivery systems for children and families.

## DHS Celebrates Black History Month - NJ

Attorney General Peter Harvey was the guest speaker at the DHS Central Office Black History Month Celebration on February 18, 2005.



Speaking to a room filled to capacity, Attorney General Harvey addressed the rise of violence in our society, and more specifically the growing problem of gang violence in New Jersey.

Also featured on the program was Timothy Robinson of the Unuzi Drum and Dance Group. Accompanied by two other drummers, Mr. Robinson gave an interactive demonstration showcasing the art of African Drum and Dance.

Former DHS employee Porsha Mitchell, who has been singing since the age of five, left the audience spellbound with a moving rendition of “Amazing Grace.”



Unuzi Drum & Dance Group

## TPH selected for innovation in NJ State

**Government Award** - Trenton Psychiatric Hospital’s Overtime Reduction Based on Data Analysis and Performance Improvement Methodology Program was selected for the first annual Innovation in New Jersey State Government Award. The program was selected from workshops presented during the October 2004, Best Practices in New Jersey State Government Workshop Series.

TPH CEO Greg Roberts will be presented the award during the Annual Employee Recognition Program on May 2, 2005 at the Trenton War Memorial. The Innovation in New Jersey State Government Award is sponsored by Quality New Jersey, Inc., and the NJ Department of Personnel’s Employee Awards Committee.

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